BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

| In the Matter of the Accusation Against: |))) |
|--|---------------------------|
| ANAHIT BLIKIAN, M.D. |) File No. 17-2004-161099 |
| Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 39608 |)) |
| Respondent |)) |
| | |

DECISION

The attached Stipulation and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on April 23, 2009.

IT IS SO ORDERED March 24, 2009.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D., Chair

Panel A

| 1 2 | EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California TRINA L. SAUNDERS, State Bar No. 207764 Deputy Attorney General | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3 | 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 | | | | |
| 4 | Los Angeles, California 90013 Telephone: (213) 620-2193 | | | | |
| 5 | Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 | | | | |
| 6 | Attorneys for Complainant | | | | |
| 7 | BEFORE T | | | | |
| 8 | MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | | | |
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| 10 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 17-2004-161099 | | | |
| 11 | ANAHIT BLIKIAN, M.D. | OAH No. L2008030055 | | | |
| 12 13 | 5020 Sunset Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90027 | STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER | | | |
| 14 | Physician's & Surgeon's Certificate A39608, | | | | |
| 15 | Respondent. | | | | |
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| 17 | IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AN | ND AGREED by and between the parties to | | | |
| 18 | the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true: | | | | |
| 19 | PARTIE | <u>ES</u> | | | |
| 20 | Barbara Johnston (Complaina | ant) is the Executive Director of the Medical | | | |
| 21 | Board of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is | | | | |
| 22 | represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., | Attorney General of the State of California, | | | |
| 23 | by Trina L. Saunders, Deputy Attorney General. | | | | |
| 24 | 2. Respondent Anahit Blikian, M | M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this | | | |
| 25 | proceeding by attorney Richard A. Moss, whose address is 255 South Marengo Avenue, | | | | |
| 26 | Pasadena, California 91101-2719. | | | | |
| 27 | 3. On or about March 7, 1983, t | he Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's | | | |
| 28 | Cortificate number A 30608 to Dr. Blikian. That lice | ense was in full force and effect at all times | | | |

relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 17-2004-161099 and will expire on September 30, 2010, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 17-2004-161099 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 13, 2007. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of the Accusation is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 17-2004-161099. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including her right to a hearing on the charges in the Accusation; her right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; her right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; her right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; her right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; her right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 17-2004-161099, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's license.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could

establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest those charges.

10. Respondent agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's license is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to the approval of the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that the Board's staff and counsel for complainant may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its order, the stipulated settlement, except for this paragraph, shall be of no force or effect. The stipulated settlement shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate A39608 issued to Respondent Anahit Blikian, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for four (4) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than forty hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified,

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limited to classroom, conference, or seminar settings. In this instance the course work should be related to patient assessment. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Division or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for sixty-five hours of continuing medical education of which forty hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

2. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Division or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first six months of probation is a violation of probation.

A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Division or its designee, be accepted toward the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Division or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Division or its designee not later than fifteen calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than fifteen calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in the Physician Enhancement Program (PEP) offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. Respondent must comply with all portions of the Professional Enhancement Program. The program includes among other things, an initial on-site visit, monthly chart audits, monthly and quarterly reports regarding the physician's professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at Respondent's expense during the term of probation.

The Division or its designee shall provide the PEP program office with copies of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s).

Within sixty calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout probation, Respondent's practice shall be monitored through the PEP program administrators. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours, and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above is a violation of probation.

Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within fifteen calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS During probation,
 Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.
- 6. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- 7. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u> Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Division, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly

8. <u>PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE</u> Respondent shall comply with the Division's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Division or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's certificate.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Division, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty calendar days.

- 9. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Division or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing thirty calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary

or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two-year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

11. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason Respondent stops practicing medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within thirty calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

12. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than one hundred

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and twenty calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Division, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this Decision, if 14. Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request the voluntary surrender of Respondent's license. The Division reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within fifteen calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall license to the Division or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of Respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked license. Respondent will be required to comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 17-2004-161099 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Division, which are currently set at \$3173.00, but may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Division or its

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designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year. Failure to pay costs within thirty calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Richard A. Moss. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board.

DATED: 01/2-8/09

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Anahit Blikian, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 01/28

RICHARD A. MOSS Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board.

DATED: January 30, 2009

ÉDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California

TRINA L. SAUNDERS
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

DOJ Matter ID: LA2006502846 50379732.wpd

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| 1 | EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General | FILED | |
| 2 | of the State of California ROBERT McKIM BELL, State Bar No. 56332 | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | |
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General TRINA L. SAUNDERS, State Bar No. 207764 | MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA | |
| 4 | Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice | SACRAMENTO September 13, 20 07 BY Cole is MMQ, ANALYST | |
| 5 | 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, California 90013 | TOTAL TOTAL | |
| 6 | Telephone: (213) 620-2193 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 | | |
| 7 | Attorneys for Complainant | | |
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| 8 | BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA | | |
| 9 | DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAL | | |
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| 11 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 17-2004-161099 | |
| 12 | ANAHIT BLIKIAN, M.D. | | |
| 13 | 5020 Sunset Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90027 | ACCUSATION | |
| 14 | Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. A39608, | | |
| 15 | Respondent. | | |
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| 17 | Complainant alleges: | | |
| 18 | <u>PARTII</u> | <u>es</u> | |
| 19 - | 1. Barbara Johnston ("Complain | nant") brings this Accusation solely in her | |
| 20 | official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California ("Board"). | | |
| 21 | 2. On or about March 7, 1983, the Board issued Physician and Surgeon's | | |
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| 25 | JURISDIC* | <u>rion</u> | |
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4. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate."
- 5. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence - Patient Maria B.)

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6. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (b) of the Code in that she engaged in acts and omissions in the care and treatment of a patient constituting gross negligence. The circumstances are as follows:

- 7. On or about March 16, 2003, Maria B., a 24-year-old female, presented to Respondent for an initial history and physical examination. The patient's physical exam was documented mostly via checkmarks on a template form. The patient's vital signs were listed with normal results. The oral cavity was mostly checkmarked with normal findings with the exception of an illegible finding. An eye exam was mostly checkmarked with normal findings, with the exception of "red eyes," which is written in. An abdominal exam was mostly checkmarked with normal findings, with the exception of a diagram illustrating 1+ suprapubic tenderness. A breast and pelvic exam are not documented. Assessment, impression, or summary was not documented. The "Plan" section is missing from the medical records, although a copy of a prescription for condoms, OrthoNovum 7-7-7, and Cipro are found in the record.
- 8. Laboratory results for October 16, 2003, indicate that patient Maria B. had syphilis. On the same lab report, the patient was noted to have elevated cholesterol and triglycerides, and a urinalysis with 2+ protein and the presence of bacteria. This lab report was initialed, "BA" on November 4, 2003.
- 9. On or about November 4, 2003, patient Maria B. was notified to return to the clinic as soon as possible via a form letter.
- On or about November 18, 2003, patient Maria B. returned to the clinic. 10. The medical records contain a statement that the "patient came in for injection for syphilis and will be back for 2nd injection next week (7-10 days)." There was no other history documented.
- 11. There was no history noted concerning any previous or current signs of syphilis, to help determine the current stage of the patient's condition. The exam only noted red eyes, slight distress, obesity and decreased chest expansion. Bicillin (a form of penicillin) was ordered intramuscularly. There was no documentation of any counseling regarding the condition

diagnosis of syphilis or any subsequent treatments.

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THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts - Patient Claudia C.)

- 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (c), of the Code in that she engaged in repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of a patient. The circumstances are as follows.
- 19. On or about January 9, 2004, Claudia C., a 29-year-old female presented to Respondent for an initial history and examination. The patient's physical exam was documented mostly via checkmarks on a template form. The patient was noted to have her last pap smear six months prior to the visit, which was reported by the patient as normal. The patient's vitals were listed with normal results. Breast and pelvic exams were not documented. The records do not contain a "Plan" section, although a copy of a prescription for condoms, OrthoNovum 7-7-7, and Doxycycline¹ are found in the record. No indication for Doxycycline was found in the record.
- 20. Serum results for January 9, 2004 for cholesterol and random glucose were elevated. The abnormal results appear to have been left unaddressed, and the patient did not appear to be treated for such abnormalities.
- 21. The urine dipstick result performed by Respondent's office on January 9, 2004, differed from the lab urinalysis result of the same date. Specifically the pH by Respondent's office was reported as 6.0, the character noted as cloudy, the white blood cell count was 3+ and the red blood cell count was noted as 1+. The lab urinalysis results indicated that the pH was 8.0, the character was clear, the white blood cell count was none and the red blood cell count was none.
- 22. On or about February 6, 2004, patient Claudia C. presented to Respondent with complaints of urinary frequency and burning urine. She was noted to have suprapubic tenderness, diagnosed with recurrent urinary tract infections, and given a prescription of Cipro.

^{1.} Doxycycline is a member of the tetracycline antibiotics group and is commonly used to treat a variety of infections

circles on "WNL" (within normal limits) by each category.

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Patient Claudia C. again presented to Respondent on or about April 2,

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27 28 2004, with complaints of a vaginal discharge and milky mucous with a strong odor. The length of the symptoms was not recorded. On examination, the patient was noted to be slightly distressed, and with

normal neck, chest, breast, lungs, heart, abdominal, rectal, extremity findings as indicated by

The pelvic exam section only documents a vaginal discharge, but does not describe the discharge. KOH² or wet mount -- which are diagnostic in-office tests for vaginal yeast infections, bacterial vaginosis and trichomonas -- were not performed or documented. Vaginitis was diagnosed and treated with Cleocin (a form of antibiotic). A prescription for contraceptives was refilled.

Under "Impressions," a statement, "r/o PID" was noted on January 9, 2004 26. and February 6, 2004. This diagnosis was made without supporting history or exam findings. The diagnosis of PID³ was left by Respondent without work-up or treatment.

- 27. Respondent did not conduct or perform breast or pelvic examinations during the course of treating patient Claudia C.
- On August 17, 2005, Respondent met with a Medical Board investigator. Respondent gave statements and failed to recognize basic medical facts that indicated a lack of knowledge. They include: (1) Failing to acknowledge that cancers of the uterus or breasts are contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives; (2) Failing to consider that the presence of vaginal bleeding does not rule out pregnancy; (3) Stating that Doxycycline was active for Trichomonas, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea; and (4) Failing to recognize that strong or foul

^{2.} The KOH test is a procedure in which potassium hydroxide (KOH) is used to detect fungi by dissolving human cells in a culture.

^{3.} Pelvic inflammatory disease (or disorder) (PID) is a generic term for infection of the female uterus, fallopian tubes, and/or ovaries as it progresses to scar formation with adhesions to nearby tissues and organs.

28, 2003, July 21, 2003, August 26, 2003, September 22, 2003, October 10, 2003, October 16, 2003, November 18, 2003, December 29, 2003, February 3, 2004, March 16, 2004 and June 9, 2004.

- 33. Consistently, the subjective portion of the progress notes in the medical records of patient Nelli S. are merely comprised of listed complaints and lack pertinent positives/negatives, descriptions of patient complaints, or history of such complaints.
- 34. Consistently, the physical examination findings contained in the progress notes are merely comprised of circles over pre-written words. There was no description provided as to the location of the findings, their severity or quality, or any other essential information that would aid in making a diagnosis of the patient's condition, or would alert another physician who reviews the records to the condition of the patient.
- 35. The "Assessment" section of the medical records of patient Nelli S., which was labeled as "Impression(s)," consistently lists diagnoses, or often was comprised of a list of complaints. Pertinent descriptions of the diagnosis are absent and suspected causes are not described.
- 36. The "Plan" section of the progress notes usually and consistently lists medications exclusively. There was no documentation of referrals to specialists or requested follow-up visits. Additionally, there was no documentation of general counseling or specific counseling regarding any of the listed diagnoses being provided to patient Nelli S.
- 37. On or about February 26, 2002, patient Nelli S. complained to Respondent of having a milky, cheese-like vaginal discharge. A diagnosis of vulvovaginitis (inflammation or irritation of the vagina and vulva) was made. No wet mount, KOH test, or culture was performed to confirm or determine the type of diagnosis. An undescribed vaginal discharge was the only finding listed and there was no indication that a pelvic examination was performed. No medications were prescribed.
- 38. On or about July 29, 2002, September 10, 2002, October 9, 2002, April 15, 2003, November 18, 2003 and December 29, 2003 patient Nelli S. presented to Respondent with complaints similar to those described in paragraph 37 of this Accusation. On each occasion

there was no assessment as to the type of vulvovaginitis listed. On each occasion no wet mount, KOH test, or culture was performed to confirm or determine the type of diagnosis. An undescribed vaginal discharge was the only finding listed. The records do not demonstrate that a pelvic examination was performed on any of these occasions. On each visit the patient was either treated with Monistat, or left untreated altogether.

- 39. Throughout the medical records, palpable gallbladder was documented. This is a specific indication of gallbladder carcinoma. An abdominal ultrasound was ordered on February 26, 2002. The only ultrasound found in this patient's medical record is dated April 15, 2003, and reports "slightly calcified thickening of gallbladder walls as well as "sludge visualized." There was no evidence of further work-up for the calcified gallbladder wall.
- 40. On February 26, 2002, October 9, 2002 and November 18, 2003, a urinary tract infection was diagnosed. There was no urine dipstick analysis, urinalysis, or urine culture performed. On April 15, 2003 and September 22, 2003, urinary tract infection was diagnosed and a urinalysis appears to have been performed. Nonetheless, on none of these occasions were antibiotics prescribed or a referral made to a urologist for this patient's recurrent cystitis/urinary tract infections.
- 41. On September 10, 2002, patient Nelli S. presented to Respondent, complaining of neck pain, following serious acute head trauma. No X-rays were ordered and no physical therapy or orthopedic consultations were recommended.
- 42. On September 10, 2002, patient Nelli S. presented with complaints of chest pain. Respondent diagnosed her with chest pains/exertion angina. Despite the diagnosis, no EKG, stress testing or referral to an emergency room or cardiologist was made to rule out acute myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease.
- 43. On July 20, 2005 and August 17, 2005, Respondent participated in interviews with the Medical Board of California, regarding her care of patient Nelli S. During this interview Respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge by making the following

^{4.} Ultram is a brand name for tramadol, a synthetic analgesic pain reliever with a mechanism of action similar to morphine.

| 1 | treatment of a patient | . The circumstances are as follows: | | | |
|----|--|---|--|--|--|
| 2 | 46. | Paragraphs 31 through 44 are incorporated by reference as if fully set | | | |
| 3 | forth. | | | | |
| 4 | 47. | Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of | | | |
| 5 | patient Nelli S. in the | following instances: | | | |
| 6 | Α. | Each time she failed to perform and document pertinent history; | | | |
| 7 | В. | Each time she failed to perform and document an adequate physical | | | |
| 8 | examination; | | | | |
| 9 | C. | Each time she failed to perform and document an adequate assessment; | | | |
| 10 | D. | Each time she made the assessment of medical conditions without | | | |
| 11 | supporting history, exam findings, or objective studies; | | | | |
| 12 | E. | Each time she failed to develop and document reasonable plans for | | | |
| 13 | evaluating an | d/or treating the patient's presenting complaints/diagnosis on a repeated | | | |
| 14 | basis; | | | | |
| 15 | F. | Each time she failed to adequately evaluate and treat vulvovaginitis; | | | |
| 16 | G. | Each time she failed to adequately evaluate and treat the patient's urinary | | | |
| 17 | tract infection | ; | | | |
| 18 | H. | Failed to recognize signs of gallbladder carcinoma; and | | | |
| 19 | I. | Failed to adequately evaluate the patient's acute neck pain in the setting of | | | |
| 20 | severe head to | rauma. | | | |
| 21 | | SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE | | | |
| 22 | | (Gross Negligence - Patient Mari A.) | | | |
| 23 | 48. | Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, | | | |
| 24 | subdivision (b) of the | e Code in that she engaged in acts and omissions in the care and treatment of | | | |
| 25 | a patient constituting | gross negligence. The circumstances are as follows: | | | |
| 26 | 49. | On or about August 15, 1997, Mari A., a 66-year-old female presented to | | | |
| 27 | Respondent. Respon | ndent treated this patient from December 5, 2001 through March 8, 2004. | | | |
| | 11 | | | | |

The dates on which Patient Mari A. was seen by Respondent are as

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27. follows: December 5, 2001, February 4, 2002, April 1, 2002, May 10, 2002, May 16, 2002, June 6, 2002, June 14, 2002, August 9, 2002, September 11, 2002, September 16, 2002, October 14, 2002, November 8, 2002, December 4, 2002, December 27, 2002, April 7, 2003, April 10, 2003, June 5, 2003, July 17, 2003, November 21, 2003, December 3, 2003, January 15, 2004, February 9, 2004, and March 8, 2004.

- 51. Respondent failed to perform and document pertinent histories on nearly all visits of patient Mari A. On a consistent basis throughout the medical record, the subjective portion of the progress note was merely comprised of listed complaints and consistently lacks pertinent positives/negatives, descriptions of the complaints, or history of such complaints.
- 52. Respondent consistently failed to perform and document adequate physical examinations. Throughout the progress notes, the physical examination findings are merely comprised of circles over pre-written words. There was no description provided as to the location of findings, their severity or quality, or any other essential information that would aid in making a diagnosis of the patient's condition or would alert another physician reviewing the records to the condition of the patient.
- 53. Respondent consistently failed to perform and document adequate assessments. In the progress notes, the "Assessment" section was labeled, "Impression(s)." On a consistent basis, this area merely lists diagnoses, or often was comprised of a list of complaints. Missing are pertinent descriptions of the diagnosis and the etiology.
- 54. Respondent failed to develop and document reasonable plans for evaluating and/or treating the patient's presenting complaints/diagnosis. The "Plan" section of the progress notes usually and consistently lists medications exclusively. There was no documentation of referrals to specialists or requested follow-up visits. Additionally, there was no documentation of general counseling or specific counseling regarding any of the listed diagnoses.
- 55. An ultrasound report from ABC Medical clinic, of June 7, 2002, reported calcified thickening of gallbladder walls. The interpreter determined that this was consistent with mild cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder). The liver was measured at 18.5 cm

and reported as slightly enlarged liver consistent with mild hepatomegaly (an enlarged liver). Small stones and possible gravel were seen in the left and right kidneys respectively. The report was unsigned. There was no evidence of further work-up for calcified gallbladder wall. There was no referral for a gastroenterologist or surgeon for the findings of cholystitis or for the calcified gallbladder wall. There was no treatment offered for the bilateral kidney stones, nor was there a referral to a neurologist.

- 56. Elevated cholesterol levels are noted on December 3, 2003, but left untreated.
- 57. On every visit the patient was noted to have decreased hearing and vision. There was no documentation of actual visual acuity testing. There was no documentation of a comprehensive eye examination, including inspection testing of extraocular muscles. There was no audiogram testing. There was no assessment of the cause of decreased visual or hearing changes. There was no referral for a formal hearing test. There was no referral to an opthamologist, audiologist, or otolaryngologist. There was no referral to a neurologist.
- 58. On May 10, 2002, patient Mari A. presented with a complaint of poor memory, forgetfulness and poor concentration. No details are recorded of the history of these complaints, such as length of changes and associated neurologic changes. No neurologic examination or diagnostic testing was performed. No consultation with a specialist was requested or documented.
- 59. On July 20, 2005 and August 17, 2005, Respondent participated in interviews with the Board regarding her care of patient Mari A. During such interview Respondent demonstrated her lack of knowledge when she: (1) Demonstrated her inability to distinguish between rales and rhonchi or to explain any significance between the two findings; (2) Stated that varicose veins were the cause of abnormal pulses; (3) Answered that "the stool was not bloody" when asked if GI bleeding was ever ruled out in a patient with anemia and failed to recognize that GI bleeding needed to be ruled out in a setting of anemia; (4) Stated that gallbladder wall calcification was a sign of cholecystitis; (5) Did not know what thoracic outlet syndrome is; (6) Stated that a low TSH was indicative of hypothyroidism; (7) Did not know

what a cystocele⁵ was; (8) Made an inaccurate labeling of thyroid disorder; (9) Failed to perform a urinalysis or urine culture despite repeated urinary complaints; (10) Used Ergotamine⁶ in order to "improve the memory" of a patient; (11) Failed to recognize signs of gallbladder carcinoma; (12) Failed to act in the case of prolonged visual loss, thus failing to recognize the potential seriousness of this condition; (13) Failed to act in the case of prolonged hearing loss, thus failing to recognize the potential seriousness of this condition; and (14) Failed to adequately evaluate or treat the patient's mental status changes.

- 60. Respondent was grossly negligent in the overall care and treatment provided to patient Mari A. Specifically, Respondent committed gross negligence when she
 - A. Failed to perform and document pertinent histories on nearly all patient visits.
 - B. Failed to perform and document an adequate physical examinations on nearly all patient visits.
 - C. Failed to perform and document adequate assessments on nearly all patient visits.
 - D. Made the assessment of medical conditions without supporting history, exam findings, or objective studies.
 - E. Failed to develop and document reasonable plans for evaluating and/or treating the patient's presenting complaints/diagnosis on a repeated basis.
 - F. Failed to maintain documentation of any referrals when a specialist's care was indicated and failed to maintain communication with the specialists whom the patient was allegedly referred to.
 - G. Failed to recognize signs of gallbladder carcinoma.

^{5.} A cystocele is a condition that occurs when the wall between a woman's bladder and her vagina weakens and allows the bladder to droop into the vagina. This condition may cause discomfort and problems with emptying the bladder.

^{6.} Ergotamine is a drug used as a vasoconstrictor for migraine prevention.

reference as if fully set forth.

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NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence – All Patients)

- 67. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (d), in that Respondent was incompetent and demonstrated lack of knowledge and/or ability in treatment of four patients. The circumstances are as follows:
- 68. The allegations in paragraphs 7 64 are incorporated here by reference as if fully set forth.
- 69. Respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge when discussing the details of her treatment and care of patient Maria B. during her interview with the Medical Board on July 20, 2005 and August 17, 2005, when she stated that Gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing were performed via a blood test.
- 70. Respondent demonstrated her incompetence when discussing the details of her treatment and care of patient Claudia C. during her interview with the Medical Board.

 Specifically, Respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge when she:
 - A. Failed to acknowledge that contraindications for oral contraceptives were cancers of the uterus or breasts;
 - B. Failed to consider that the presence of vaginal bleeding does not rule out pregnancy;
 - C. Stated that Doxycycline was active for Trichomonas, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea. Among the three conditions Doxycycline is only active for Chlamydia; and
 - D. Failed to recognize that strong or foul smelling vaginal discharge is usually caused by bacterial vaginosis.
- 71. Respondent demonstrated her incompetence when discussing the details of her treatment and care of patient Nelli S. during her interview with the Medical Board when she:
 - A. Stated that Ultram was not an addictive medication;
 - B. Stated that a patient with a hysterctomy was in menopause due to the lack of menstruations;

8. Ergotamine is a drug used as a vasoconstrictor for migraine prevention.

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